

AMENDED IN SENATE AUGUST 11, 1998

AMENDED IN SENATE JULY 14, 1998

AMENDED IN SENATE JULY 10, 1997

AMENDED IN SENATE JUNE 25, 1997

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY JUNE 4, 1997

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—1997–98 REGULAR SESSION

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**ASSEMBLY BILL**

**No. 1291**

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**Introduced by Assembly ~~Member Strom-Martin~~ Members  
*Strom-Martin and Richter***

February 28, 1997

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An act relating to state employees, making an appropriation therefor, and declaring the urgency thereof, to take effect immediately.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 1291, as amended, Strom-Martin. State firefighters: salary increase.

Existing law appropriates funds for the support of the Department of Forestry and Fire Protection, including amounts necessary for employee compensation.

This bill, *subject to a memorandum of understanding being reached between the Governor and State Bargaining Unit 8 and the Legislature approving that memorandum of understanding*, would appropriate to the Controller a sum sufficient to provide all state employees represented by State Bargaining Unit 8, and their corresponding supervisors and

managers, with a salary increase of *up to* 15% retroactive to March 1, 1998, for the purpose of funding this salary increase.

This bill would declare that it is to take effect immediately as an urgency statute.

Vote:  $\frac{2}{3}$ . Appropriation: yes. Fiscal committee: yes.  
State-mandated local program: no.

*The people of the State of California do enact as follows:*

1 SECTION 1. The Legislature hereby finds and  
2 declares all of the following:

3 (a) It is critical to the public safety of California that  
4 we maintain well-trained competitively paid emergency  
5 response firefighting personnel.

6 (b) State firefighters who are trained in accordance  
7 with state of the art standards in their profession by the  
8 Department of Forestry and Fire Protection often take  
9 jobs after a few years with higher paying fire  
10 departments.

11 (c) The Department of Forestry and Fire Protection  
12 firefighters work significantly longer hours per week than  
13 their counterparts in other fire departments in this state,  
14 72-hour shifts as contrasted with 56-hour shifts.

15 (d) The Department of Forestry and Fire Protection  
16 is the largest full-service fire department in the state and  
17 is responsible for protecting more than 33,000,000 acres of  
18 land in state responsibility areas, as defined in Section  
19 4102 of the Public Resources Code, and is the fire  
20 department for 30 of our 58 counties.

21 (e) The Department of Forestry and Fire Protection  
22 contracts with more than 100 local governments as their  
23 full-service fire department, providing response services  
24 ranging from suppression of fires to care in medical  
25 emergencies.

26 (f) Although their work is often more arduous than the  
27 work of other firefighters, the Department of Forestry  
28 and Fire Protection firefighters are paid significantly less  
29 than firefighters in other fire departments, as much as 40  
30 percent less than other firefighters performing similar  
31 tasks.

1 SEC. 2. ~~Notwithstanding~~ *Subject to a memorandum*  
2 *of understanding being reached between the Governor*  
3 *and State Bargaining Unit 8 pursuant to Chapter 10.3*  
4 *(commencing with Section 3512) of Division 4 of Title 1*  
5 *of the Government Code and the Legislature approving*  
6 *that memorandum of understanding*, a sum sufficient to  
7 provide all state employees represented by State  
8 Bargaining Unit 8, and their corresponding supervisors  
9 and managers, with a salary increase of *up to* 15 percent  
10 retroactive to March 1, 1998, is hereby appropriated from  
11 the General Fund to the Controller for the purpose of  
12 funding this salary increase.

13 SEC. 3. This act is an urgency statute necessary for the  
14 immediate preservation of the public peace, health, or  
15 safety within the meaning of Article IV of the  
16 Constitution and shall go into immediate effect. The facts  
17 constituting the necessity are:

18 In order that the salary of state firefighters may be  
19 increased retroactive to March 1, 1998, it is necessary for  
20 this act to take effect immediately.